CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of arranging user-modified variable names in a presentation list, comprising the steps of:

receiving a system request to display variables in the presentation list; and

sorting the variables by giving user-named variables greater priority over system-named variables and then sorting by a second attribute.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of displaying the variables when a user selects the variables using a drop-down control.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of distinguishing between a user-named variable and a system-named variable.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of distinguishing is accomplished using at least one among labeling and text formatting.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the second criteria is an alphabetical order.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the second criteria is a chronological order.

7. A system for arranging user-modified variable names in a presentation list comprises:

a memory; and

a processor programmed to receive a system request to display the variables from the memory in the presentation list and to sort the variables by giving user-named variables greater priority over system-named variables and then sorting by a second criteria.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the processor is further programmed to display the variables when a user selects the variables using a drop-down control.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein the processor is further programmed to distinguish between a user-named variable and a system-named variable.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the processor distinguishes between the user-named variable and the system-named variable by using at least one among labeling and text formatting.

11. The system of claim 7, wherein the second criteria is an alphabetical order.

12. The system of claim 7, wherein the second criteria is a chronological order.

13. The system of claim 7, wherein the presentation list is at least one among a drop-down list and a list box.

14. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of receiving a system request to display variables in a presentation list and sorting the variables by giving user named variables greater priority over system named variables and then sorting by a second attribute.

15. The machine-readable storage of claim 14, wherein the machine-readable storage is further programmed to sort by the second criteria being an alphabetical order.

16. The machine-readable storage of claim 14, wherein the machine-readable storage is further programmed to sort by the second criteria being a chronological order.